

SENATE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Meeting of Thursday, February 16, 1995
Room BC-110, 10:30

- Present:** E. Abouheif, T. Bui (Chair), D. Gold, P. Lightbown, E. Loo (recording secretary), D. Markiewicz, R. Storms, C. Suen, J. Beaudoin (rep. E. Besso)
- Regrets:** B. Anderson, E.M. Besso, P. Bird, D. Feldman, J. Tomberlin
- Absent:** P. Dalton, A.B. Ibrahim, K. Lipke, J.F. Plamondon

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED AND DISTRIBUTED TO SENATE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

- SRC-02-16-95-A Agenda for the SRC Meeting of February 16, 1995
- SRC-12-15-94-M Minutes of the SRC Meeting of December 15, 1994
- SRC-02-16-95-D1 Report of the Federal Science and Technology Review - National Conference of October 12, 1994 prepared by the Science and Technology Review Secretariat.
- SRC-02-16-95-D2 Copy of Dr. Bui's memo to Mr. J. Noonan, Secretary of Senate, re: Amendment to the Guidelines for the Distribution of FRDP Funds (Senate Document US-95-1-D1)
- SRC-02-16-95-D3 Copy of Dr. Bui's memo to Associate/Vice-Dean, re: CASA Funds - motion which was unanimously passed by the Faculty of Commerce and Administration Research Committee at their meeting of January 20, 1995.
- SRC-02-16-95-D4 Copy of Dr. Bui's memo to Dr. C.L. Bertrand, Chair of Senate, re: Membership of NSERC Committees for 1994-95
- SRC-02-16-95-D5 Copy of Dr. Bui's memo to Dean Taddeo, re: CENSIPCOM
- SRC-02-16-95-D6 Copy of Memo from Lynn Penrod, President of SSHRC, re: Update on SSHRC activities, including Council meeting of October 1994.
- SRC-02-16-95-D7 Extract from Minutes of CREPUQ Executive Committee Meeting of January 26, 1995, re: Politique des établissements universitaires du Québec relative aux frais indirects de la recherche subventionnée par des organismes non accrédités.
- SRC-02-16-95-D8 The Situation Regarding the 1995-96 Concordia University Operating Budget (US-95-3-D3 & US-95-3-D4)
- SRC-02-16-95-D9 Minutes of Senate Committee on Academic Planning & Priorities (SCAPP) Meeting of December 15, 1994

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:35 a.m.

1. Approval of Agenda (SRC-02-16-95-A)

The agenda for the meeting was approved.

2. Approval of Minutes from the meeting of December 15, 1994.

The Minutes for the December 15, meeting were approved.

3. Business arising from Minutes

Item 8, Report on Research Centres at Concordia University (SRC-11-17-94-D2): The Vice-Rector, Academic has agreed to appoint a committee consisting of two Deans and two centre directors to review the document.

4. Report of the Chair

Chair reported the following:

- SRC-02-16-95-D3: On January 20, 1995, the Faculty of Commerce and Administration Research Committee unanimously passed a motion regarding the CASA Funds. At their meeting of February 3, 1995, the Faculty Council of Commerce and Administration discussed the motion and decided to adopt a different motion and this has been forwarded to Senate:

"Be it resolved that all income flows generated through University research grants be allocated to support University research.

Be it further resolved that the Faculty of Commerce and Administration supports the continued funding of CASA."

- There are two important documents related to the strategy for the enhancement of research at Concordia that were developed by this Committee. The first document *The Enhancement of Research at Concordia University* (US-91-2-D12) was approved by Senate in May 3, 1991 and the second document *Report of the Expert Task Force on the Enhancement of University-Wide Research Support Services and Facilities* was tabled at the SCAPP meeting of September 22, 1994. SCAPP adopted the following motion:

"SCAPP will forward the Report of the Expert Task Force on the Enhancement of University-Wide Research Support Services and Facilities to Senate for discussion and the Faculties for information. It will inform Senate and the Faculties that the Report will be part of the new planning and budgeting process."

The Faculty Planning and Priority Committees will be meeting in the next few months to develop the priorities of their faculties. At the beginning of the month, Chair has brought to the attention of the Deans the existence of these two documents and has asked them to incorporate the documents to the planning process of their Faculties.

- SRC-02-16-95-D7: Extract from Minutes of CREPUQ Executive Committee Meeting of January 26, 1995, re: Politique des établissements universitaires du Québec relative aux frais indirects de la recherche subventionnée par des organismes non accrédités. The Comité exécutif of the Conférence des recteurs et des principaux des universités du Québec (CREPUQ) has unanimously adopted a new policy on indirect cost charges for research grants not covered by the Système d'information sur la recherche universitaire (SIRU). The new CREPUQ policy means that Québec universities will now charge an indirect cost rate of 15 % on all grants received from agencies which are not accredited by SIRU. The new policy is intended to cover those grants falling into the grey zone between contracts (where overhead is always charged to the sponsor) and grants. This policy will **NOT** apply to internal grants, bursaries or fellowships administered by the University, or research chairs. It is important to announce the policy to the research community, Chair has asked the Office of Research Services to develop the notice to all Faculty researchers, a copy of which will be sent to the Concordia's Thursday Report for insertion.
- SRC-02-16-95-D5: Copy of Dr. Bui's memo to Dean Taddeo, re: CENSIPCOM: Chair noted that Dr. Taddeo's memo requesting an extension of deadline for submitting the five-year progress report of one of the research centres in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science - CENSIPCOM and this is due to the reorganisation of the Centre and the recent appointment of Dr. T. LeNgoc as Director. On behalf of the SRC, the Chair has agreed to extend the deadline.
- Chair wrote to Ms. Lynn Penrod, President of Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) and asked her to call on Concordia University at her next visit to Québec. He met Ms. Penrod in Toronto at the Tri-Council Conference on Integrity in Research and Scholarship on November 29, 1994. Ms. Penrod is planning to visit certain universities across the country. Chair believes that this would provide an excellent opportunity for direct communication and input from the research community to the President, particularly at the time when SSHRC is developing a new five-year strategic plan.
- Financial support for Recognised research centres: On January 13, the Committee responsible for the distribution of fund met to discuss the proposals.

This one-time funding was created to respond to two of the concerns raised by many centre directors over the past few years. The first is related to the need to standardize the support given to recognised research centres by the University and the second is to improve the University's support for infrastructure purposes.

For many years, research centres at Concordia had been created and approved without relevant policies. As a consequence, there have been inconsistencies with regard to the support from the University to recognised centres. And in many cases there has been little coordination between the Departments, the Faculties and the University in this matter. The Committee therefore decided as the first step to determine the level of support each centre is currently receiving from the University including the support from the Departments and Faculties. This exercise turned out to be a major problem since it was not clear what portion of the support is for the Centre itself and what portion was already there as departmental support for the activities of the Centre members before the Centre was created. Because of this unclear situation, it was impossible for the Committee to distribute the fund based on the concept of "standardisation". Furthermore, some of the requests are for items other than infrastructure.

The Committee therefore did not feel that the fund should be distributed at this time and more study is needed to resolve the issue of university support. However, the Chair was concerned about the amount of time needed to resolve this issue and, therefore, He has decided to distribute the fund equally among the eight centres which have submitted an application. Each centre will receive an equal amount of \$5,000.00 for infrastructure support.

5. Report of the Director, Office of Research Services

J. Beaudoin reported the following:

- The deadline for submission for the Seagram for Innovative Fund competition was last Friday. 20 applications were submitted. This year will be the first time that applications will be sent out for assessment with each application being assigned to two reviewers. The first meeting will be within the next month.
- The description about new changes in the Faculty Research Development Programme (FRDP) will appear in the next Concordia's Thursday Report and a bulletin announcing the changes has been sent to all faculty members. The Major Inter-Disciplinary Research Initiatives (MIDRI) is to support the development of a single, identifiable, new research programme based on complementary research interests of faculty members with differing disciplinary backgrounds. The award is intended to primarily support infrastructure needs. Letters of Intent will be accepted in April, August, and December.
- This morning ORS has received a call from Blaise Daté who is with the Ministère de l'Éducation in Québec. They are planning to do a site-visit to universities in Québec with people doing aerospace research in Great Britain. They are coming on March 10, the purpose of this visit is that a team of researchers from Great Britain will be coming to universities in Québec to establish a cooperative programme for research between Great Britain and Québec.
- Suzanne D'Anunzio, the Director of Conseil québécois à la recherche sociale (CQRS) came to ORS recently, and has volunteered to give a workshop in August for researchers to explain the CQRS programmes. She has also volunteered to come at the end of March to speak to people who are submitting team applications and to help them with the application process.

6. Question Period

C. Suen asked Chair if he could elaborate about the meeting of the Academic Planning Process which will be held on March 8.

Chair explained that this meeting is being called by G. Milton, executive assistant to the Interim Rector. In the planning document of SCAPP, research centres are considered as units in the planning process. A few months ago, the Associate Vice-Rector, Academic (Curriculum and Planning), A. Hochstein initiated a series of meetings with various sectors of the academic side of the University, in order to explain the process and to give out information needed by the units. Recently, the Chair made a request that perhaps research centres should be included and it was then decided to have this meeting on March 8. This meeting will be in the same line as the other meetings: to explain the process, to answer questions and to distribute data.

7. The Situation Regarding the 1995-96 Concordia University Operating Budget (SRC-02-16-95-D8)

This document was prepared by the Institutional Planning and Research with the support of the Vice-Rector, Institutional Relations and Finance. It was tabled at Senate for discussion but there was no action taken.

What are the things we should do to make research a predominant part of the planning process?

It was remarked that there has been a lot of misinformation debates. People should be informed about the benefits of research. Research does generate direct and indirect revenue, a lot goes to support graduate and undergraduate students. The budget does depend on the research income.

Committee members expressed their concern about the figures in Table 1, they are inaccurate and misleading. The entire revenue is not being considered here.

9. For information

10. Varia

11. Adjournment

It was moved that the meeting be adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

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